provisions of the Act. Grant-in-aid has also been released to two NGOs *viz.* Orissa Voluntary Health Association and Voluntary Health Association of India, New Delhi to conduct seminars and workshops and other Information, Education and Communication (IEC) activities in the States of Orissa, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu.

National Level Non-Governmental Organisations have been requested to take up projects for generating awareness about the provisions of the Act, among doctor/clinics law enforcing authorities and public at large. In December, 2000 the Department of Family Welfare has written letters to 82 Mother NGOs to direct the field NGOs to generate within their jurisdiction, awareness and public opinion against the mal-practice of selective abortion. The co-operation of the NGOs has also been requested in listing and enumerating, within their jurisdiction, the name and address of premises where the Medical Termination of Pregnancy (MTP) is being performed, with a view to detect registered/ unregistered clinics.

The Technical Sub-Committee of the Central Supervisory Board of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 has suggested necessary amendments to be made in the Act in view of the emerging technologies including separation of X and Y chromosome leading to selection of sex of unborn child before conception as well as name and preamble of the existing Act. The Central Supervisory Board of the Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994, in its meeting held on 18th October, 2001 has given is consent to the amendment suggested by the Technical Sub-Committee. The proposed Bill for amendments may be brought in the current session of Parliament.

Oral cancer

54. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than 70,000 new cases of oral cancer are coming to light every year in the country;

(b) whether in view of above fact, dental experts have demanded ban on "Gutka' and "Pan Masala', the main cause of increasing oral cancer; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) Based on the data from Population Based Cancer Registries

under the National Cancer Registry Programme of ICMR, an estimated 70,000 persons would develop oral cancers in the country in the year 2001.

(b) The Society for Cancer in Oral Cavity, Prevention through Education, Hyderabad has filed a writ petition in High Court of Andhra Pradesh at Hyderabad seeking direction to prevent manufacture, sale and consumption of Pan Masala, Gutka and Zarda etc.

(c) A comprehensive draft Bill on Tobacco & Tobacco Products has been introduced in the Parliament for discouraging use of Tobacco and its products. The bill is under the examination of the Department — related Standing Committee on HRD of the Rajya Sabha.

Meeting with the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry

55. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a delegation from the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry called on him some time back in Mumbai in connection with the difficulties being experienced by the Industry for carrying out research and experimentation on animals;

(b) if so, the details of the points raised by the delegation; and

(c) the details of assurance given by him to the delegation and the follow up action, if any, taken to fulfill the assurance?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. P. THAKUR): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The issue was informally raised. However, no formal representation was given. The delegation raised the point that the research based pharmaceutical industry has to invest heavily for 'new drug discovery research'. Approval of any new molecule for human studies requires generation of adequate pre clinical safety data on different species of animals. This is also a statutory requirement under Schedule 'Y' of Drugs and Cosmetic Rules, 1945. Further in view of the new IPR Regime under TRIPS agreement *i.e.* product patent from 2005, there is an increasing need for Indian firms to discover and develop new drugs.

However, the rules prescribed for animal experimentation and procedure prescribed by CPCSEA (Committee for the purpose of Control and Supervision of experiments and Animals) makes it very difficult for research based industry to use larger animals like Beagle Dogs and Monkey. Being a statutory